

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.     A mass storage data protection system for use with a mass storage  
 2 device in a gaming machine, the mass storage data protection system comprising:  
 3                   a mass storage device command latch;  
 4                   a timing circuit for timing signals between the mass storage device  
 5 command latch and the mass storage device;  
 6                   a comparator between the mass storage device command latch and the  
 7 timing means; and  
 8                   a comparator command register in communication with the comparator,  
 9 the comparator command register including commands that generate a fault within the  
 10 mass storage data protection system;  
 11                   wherein when the comparator receives a command from the mass storage  
 12 device command latch corresponding to a command within the comparator command  
 13 register, a fault is generated within the mass storage command latch.

1                   2.     A mass storage data protection system in accordance with claim 1  
 2 further comprising a control and status register in communication with the comparator  
 3 command register and the comparator, the control and status register being configured to  
 4 at least partially control functioning of the mass storage data protection system.

1                   3.     A mass storage data protection system in accordance with claim 1  
 2 wherein the timing circuit comprises a synchronizer and a reset generator.

1                   4.     A mass storage data protection system in accordance with claim 1  
 2 wherein the mass storage device consists of an intelligent drive electronics hard disk drive  
 3 and the mass storage device command latch consists of an intelligent drive electronics  
 4 command latch.

1                   5.     A mass storage data protection system in accordance with claim 1  
 2 wherein the comparator command register comprises a fixed command array and a user  
 3 command array.

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14 a comparator command register in communication with the  
15 comparator, the comparator command register including commands that generate a fault  
16 within the mass storage data protection system;

17 wherein when the comparator receives a command from the  
18 mass storage device command latch corresponding to a command within the comparator  
19 command register, a fault is generated within the mass storage command latch.

1 8. A gaming machine in accordance with claim 7 further comprising a  
2 control and status register in communication with the comparator command register and  
3 the comparator, the control and status register being configured to at least partially control  
4 functioning of the mass storage data protection system.

1 9. A gaming in accordance with claim 7 wherein the timing circuit  
2 comprises a synchronizer and a reset generator.

1 10. A gaming machine in accordance with claim 7 wherein the mass  
2 storage device consists of an intelligent drive electronics hard disk drive and the mass  
3 storage device command latch consists of an intelligent drive electronics command latch.

1 11. A gaming machine in accordance with claim 7 wherein the  
2 comparator command register comprises a fixed command array and a user command  
3 array.

1 12. A gaming machine comprising:  
2 a housing;  
3 at least one user input coupled to the housing;  
4 a display coupled to the housing; and  
5 a control system, the control system comprising:  
6 an intelligent drive electronics mass storage device; and  
7 a mass storage data protection system, the mass data protection  
8 system comprising:  
9 an intelligent drive electronics command latch;

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